

Message Text

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16

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00 /083 W

----- 089620

R 181540Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3222

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1428

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

DEPT FOR MC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, EAIR, SY

SUBJECT: REPORTED SYRIAN DESIRE TO PURCHASE SIKORSKY VIP HELICOPTER

REF: A. DAMASCUS 0611; B. USDOC 2925, 2/24/75; C. 10FAM 180-2

1. WELL-KNOWN SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN ROBERT DABDOUB INFORMED ECONOFF APRIL 17 THAT HE CONFIDENT HE AND HIS PARTNERS IN SYRIA AND U.S. HAVE CONVINCED SYRIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO PURCHASE VIP-OUTFITTERD SIKORSKY HELICOPTER (HE SAID MODEL 60) FOR USE BY PRESIDENT ASAD. DABDOUB PUT PRICE AT \$3 MILLION AND SAID LETTER OF CREDIT HAS ALREADY BEEN FORWARDED TO U.S. BANK. DABDOUB FULLY AWARE OF EXPORT CONTROLS ON SUCH PURCHASES AND IS AWAITING WORD OF USG APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL FROM AMERICAN PARTY WHO HE SAYS IS APPLYING FOR EXPORT LICENSE.

2. DABDOUB IS DEALING WITH JOSEPH M. ALTO, VICEPRES PETER S. TANNOUS COMPANY, SUITE 205, 1825 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC, (TEL 223-5222) (REFS A&B). DABDOUB HAS OLD AND WELL-KNOWN SHOP IN SUQ, NEXT TO AZIM PALACE, FOR SALE OF ITEMS TO TOURISTS. HE IS YOUNG AND EAGER AND SAYS HE HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN SARG TO ARRANGE FOR THIS CASH PURCHASE. HE SAYS HELICOPTER IN QUESTION WOULD BE
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COMPLETELY OUTFITTERD FOR PRESIDENTIAL USE AND THEREFORE COULD NOT BE

CONSIDERED AS OFFENSIVE IN THE MILITARY SENSE. HE ALSO NOTES THIS PARTICULAR HELICOPTER WILL BE BETTER THAN THE ONE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. DABDOUB CLAIMS HELICOPTER WILL BE SURPRISE PRESENT FOR PRESIDENT ASAD.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON TANNOUS APPLICATION FOR EXPORT LICENSE ASSUMING SUCH APPLICATION HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE. ALSO REQUEST PM/MC TELEGRAPHIC CONSULTATION WITH THIS EMBASSY PRIOR TO EXPORT LICENSE DECISION.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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